

MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANNING



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Office of Highway Safety Planning

The OHSP

The Highway Safety Act of 1966 charges each state's governor with the responsibility of administering a highway safety program designed to reduce deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by crashes. In Michigan, the Office of Highway Safety Planning was established to comply with that mandate. OHSP is dedicated to saving lives and reducing injuries on Michigan roads through leadership, innovation, facilitation, and program support in partnership with other traffic safety professionals.

Since its inception, traffic-related fatalities have decreased from more than 2,400 deaths per year to an average of 1,200 annually. Michigan also boasts one of the highest safety belt use rates in the country, achieved through a primary safety belt law and the dedicated efforts of law enforcement officers and traffic safety partners throughout the state.

How does OHSP accomplish its mission?

OHSP annually awards funding from the U.S.

Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to state and local agencies and organizations to promote the safe use of Michigan roadways. Additional support of state-funded programs is provided by the Secondary Road Patrol Program and Michigan Truck Safety Fund.



For more information about programs, services, and grant opportunities, contact OHSP at 4000 Collins Road, P.O. Box 30633, Lansing, MI 48909-8133 or (517) 336-6477, or visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

What does OHSP do?

To fulfill its mission of saving lives and reducing injuries, OHSP supports a number of traffic safety programs:

WORKING WITH MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO CREATE SAFE COMMUNITIES

Reduction of traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries requires a coordinated effort to address vehicle, roadway, and driver issues. The Michigan Safe Communities program incorporates the most effective countermeasures into a single project to address crash-related casualties at the local level, including high-visibility enforcement of safety belt, youth alcohol and drunk driving laws, publicity, and promotion of child safety seats. These efforts work together to address the primary cause of over 90 percent of all traffic crashes, specifically driver behavior.

This coupled with strong collaboration and partnerships among traffic safety disciplines (enforcement, engineering, emergency medical services, and others), and support of a community “safety culture” are designed to address other contributors to mortality such as lack of (or improper) use of child safety seats and bicycle helmets.

CORPORATE OUTREACH

Because traffic crashes are the leading cause of on-the-job death and injury, special efforts are made to engage businesses to promote safe driving practices through the Michigan Network of Employers for Traffic Safety. Employer resources include programs, policies, best practices, and activities designed to be used in the workplace.



EVALUATION

To determine the effectiveness of OHSP programs, the Program Analysis and Evaluation Unit provides statistics, analysis, research, and evaluation of program activities. This information is used to determine success and set goals.

COURTS AND ADJUDICATION

Training and Education

The adjudication community must stay abreast of priority traffic safety issues to effectively focus on these concerns and provide the proper sentencing and treatment. OHSP provides access to current information by funding training and technical assistance through the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Michigan Judicial Institute.

Sobriety Courts

Specialty court programs that deal with drivers convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol have proven to be more effective in reducing impaired driving recidivism than traditional case processing. More than twenty-five of these courts exist in Michigan with plans to expand these programs in the coming years.

Technology

Increasing caseloads and declining resources have created backlogs in blood analysis for drugs and/or alcohol. OHSP provides funding support to the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division Laboratory to expedite the testing of blood samples from suspected drunk drivers so that prosecutors can quickly and efficiently prosecute offenders. This support includes additional personnel and the use of video conferencing equipment which has been installed at the lab and at several courts. This project has reduced the need for the scientists to travel to court to provide in-person testimony in drunk driving cases enabling them to spend more time in the laboratory.



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Promoting traffic enforcement campaigns through paid advertising, the news media, and outreach are just some components of a program designed to raise awareness of traffic safety issues. OHSP's Communications Section produces newsletters, informational materials, news releases, videos, and other communication tools to support all traffic safety issues.

MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT

OHSP hosts an annual Traffic Safety Summit where traffic safety advocates from around the state come together to discuss current issues, emerging trends, and technology.

DATA

Accurate crash data and analysis are essential to understanding crash problems and determining potential solutions. Analysis looks at the who, where, and when and why of a crash.

SECONDARY ROAD PATROL

The Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention program was created by Public Act 416 of 1978. This state-funded grant program provides county sheriff offices with funding for patrol of secondary roads.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AREAS

OHSP also provides information and assistance through the following program areas: pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, motorcycles, and younger and older drivers. The single most important service offered by OHSP, however, is coordination. OHSP promotes and facilitates highway safety activities involving agencies from Monroe to Marquette—all with the goal of making the state's roadways safe for all users.

Traffic safety partners making a difference

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) provides leadership in the identification of state and local traffic safety issues and promotes recommended strategies to address them. The GTSAC is comprised of representatives from the departments of Community Health, Education, State Police, State, and Transportation; the Office of Services to the Aging; three local government representatives appointed by the Governor; and OHSP. The GTSAC coordinates the preparation and implementation of the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan.



MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission is a unique organization, the only one of its kind in the nation funded entirely by the trucking industry. Its mission is to improve truck safety by providing the trucking industry and the citizens of Michigan with effective educational programs and by addressing specific truck safety issues. OHSP administers the commission's grant program and facilitates quarterly meetings. The commission is comprised of representatives from the departments of State and State Police, OHSP, the Michigan Transportation Commission, the Michigan Trucking Association, private motor carriers, organized labor, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and two members of the general public.







Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
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Lansing, MI 48909-8133
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OHSP STAFF

Michael Prince, Director
ph: (517) 333-5301 email: princem@michigan.gov

Deborah Sonnenberg, Executive Secretary
ph: (517) 333-5301 email: sonnenbD@michigan.gov

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Anne Readett, Section Chief
ph: (517) 333-5317 email: readetta@michigan.gov

Jon Benallack, Graphic Designer
ph: (517) 333-5992 email: benallackj1@michigan.gov

Kim Harris-Burrows, Administrative Assistant
ph: (517) 333-5325 email: harrisKK@michigan.gov

Alyson Kechkaylo, Media Relations and Outreach Coordinator
ph: (517) 333-5304 email: kechkayloa@michigan.gov

Lynn Mears, Administrative Assistant
ph: (517) 333-5325 email: mearsl@michigan.gov

Lynn Sutfin, Public Information and Marketing Coordinator
ph: (517) 333-5754 email: sutfinl@michigan.gov

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SECTION

Kim Kelly, Section Chief
ph: (517) 333-5305 email: kellykw@michigan.gov

Sandy Eyre, Administrative Assistant
ph: (517) 333-5303 email: eyres@michigan.gov

Karen Richardson, Accounting Technician
ph: (517) 333-5332 email: richardk@michigan.gov

Spencer Simmons, Accountant
ph: (517) 333-5326 email: [simmonssj@michigan.gov](mailto:simonssj@michigan.gov)

SECONDARY ROAD PATROL PROGRAM UNIT

Julie Roth, Accountant
ph: (517) 333-5333 email: RothJ3@michigan.gov

SAFETY PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION

Kathy Farnum, Senior Section Chief
ph: (517) 333-5316 email: farnumk@michigan.gov

Pat Carrow, Special Programs
ph: (517) 333-5315 email: carrowp@michigan.gov

Steve Schreier, Traffic Records Program
ph: (517) 333-5306 email: schreies@michigan.gov

Piétro Semifero, Program Analysis and Evaluation
ph: (517) 333-5320 email: semiferp@michigan.gov

Arlene Turner, Administrative Assistant
ph: (517) 333-5334 email: turnera@michigan.gov

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SECTION

Deborah Savage, Section Chief
ph: (517) 333-5324 email: savaged@michigan.gov

Jamie Dolan, Upper Peninsula Programs
ph: (906) 225-7036 email: dolanj@michigan.gov

Pat Eliason, Police Traffic Services Program
ph: (517) 333-5318 email: eliasonp@michigan.gov

Mike Harris, Law Enforcement Liaison
ph: (517) 333-4417 email: harrismichael@michigan.gov

Jason Hamblen, Impaired Driving Program
ph: (517) 333-5319 email: hamblenj@michigan.gov

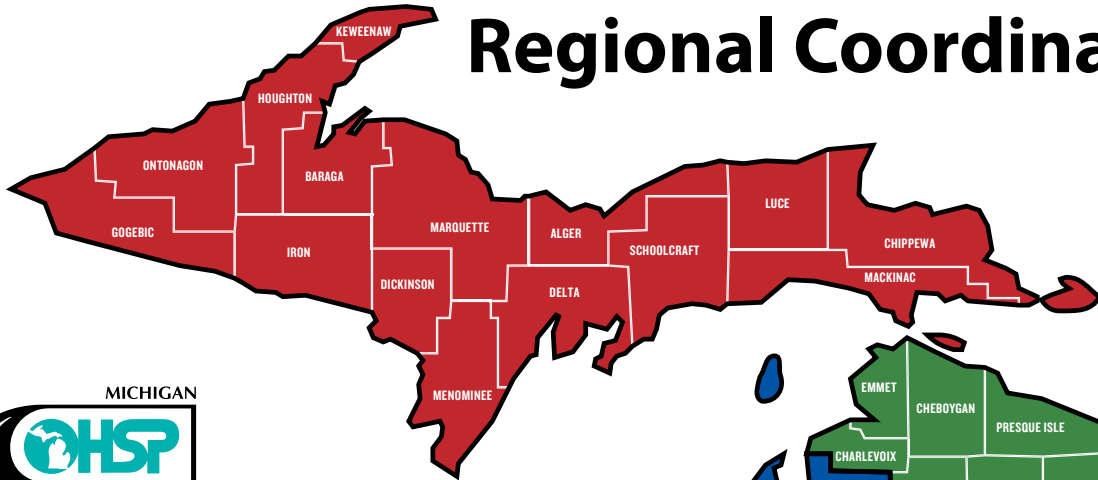
Dianne Perukel, Teen Programs
ph: (517) 333-5337 email: perukeld@michigan.gov

Brenda Roys, Grants Technician
ph: (517) 333-5302 email: roysb@michigan.gov

Alicia Sledge, Occupant Protection Program
ph: (517) 333-5321 email: sledgea@michigan.gov

Dan Vartanian, Corporate Outreach Program
ph: (517) 333-5322 email: vartanid@michigan.gov

Regional Coordinators



Upper Peninsula: Jamie Dolan
906-225-7036
dolanj@michigan.gov

Traverse Bay Area: Dan Vartanian
517-333-5322
vartanid@michigan.gov

Northern Lower: Dan Vartanian
517-333-5322
vartanid@michigan.gov

Lakeshore: Jason Hamblen
517-333-5319
hamblenj@michigan.gov

Chippewa Valley: Pat Eliason
517-333-5318
eliasonp@michigan.gov

Saginaw Valley: Mike Harris
517-333-4417
HarrisMichael@michigan.gov

West Michigan: Jason Hamblen
517-333-5319
hamblenj@michigan.gov

Southwest: Pat Eliason
517-333-5318
eliasonp@michigan.gov

South Central: Pat Eliason
517-333-5318
eliasonp@michigan.gov

Capital Area: Alicia Sledge
517-333-5321
sledgea@michigan.gov

Huron Valley: Pat Eliason
517-333-5318
eliasonp@michigan.gov

Thumb Area: Mike Harris
517-333-4417
HarrisMichael@michigan.gov

St. Clair: Dianne Perukel
517-333-5337
perukeld@michigan.gov

Macomb County: Dianne Perukel
517-333-5337
perukeld@michigan.gov

Wayne County: Pat Carrow
517-333-5315
carrowp@michigan.gov

Wayne County Enforcement: Pat Eliason
517-333-5318
eliasonp@michigan.gov

Wayne County Underage Drinking: Dianne Perukel
517-333-5337
perukeld@michigan.gov

Oakland County: Dianne Perukel
517-333-5337
perukeld@michigan.gov

